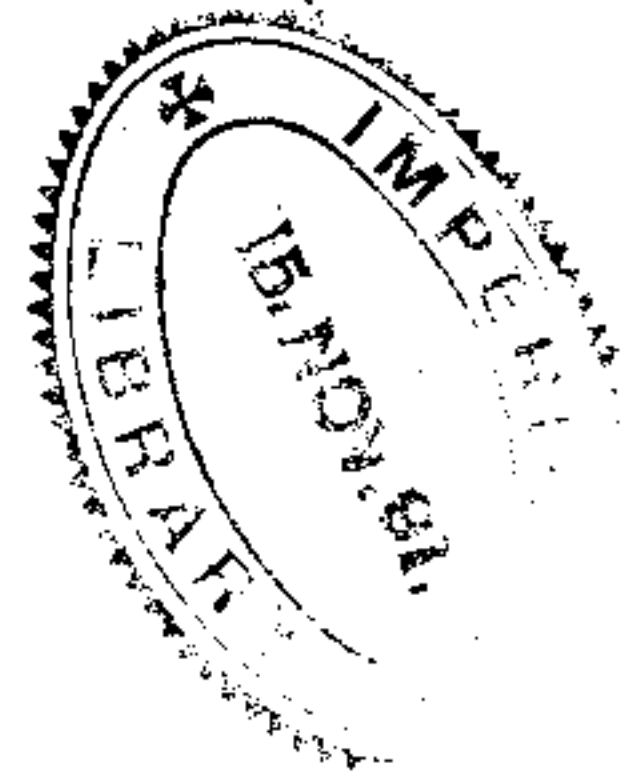


ON THE  
SMALL MAMMALIA  
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[*From the* PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
LONDON, February 15, 1887.]

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On the small Mammalia collected in Demerara by  
Mr. W. L. Sclater. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Plate XIX.)

The Mammalia obtained by Mr. W. L. Sclater during his recent visit to British Guiana consist of 13 specimens belonging to 8 species, of which one is new. All of them have had their exact localities and dates recorded, and are therefore of interest even when belonging to common species. The discovery of a new species of the

[1]

peculiar Dormouse-like subgenus *Rhipidomys* is a very interesting fact, and shows how much these small mammals have been neglected by the very numerous collectors who have worked in the different parts of Guiana. The following is a list of the species, with short notes by Mr. Sclater upon their habits, &c.

1. *VESPERUGO (VESPERUS) HILARII*, Geof.

*a.* Maccasseema, Pomeroon R., 15/12/86.

"Caught in the store-room in the daytime; apparently it was crawling about the place, and made no attempt to fly away."—*W. L. S.*

2. *FURIA HORRENS*, F. Cuv.

*a.* Maccasseema, 11/86.

"This was the common House-bat of Maccasseema and flew about the premises at dusk. The individual obtained was killed by Mr. im Thurn."—*W. L. S.*

3. *RYNCHONYCTERIS NASO*, Wied.

*a-d.* Marakka, 20 miles up the Pomeroon, 15/12/86. *e.* Near Maccasseema, 5/12/86.

"These Bats cling most of the day to the stump of a tree overhanging the water, and when disturbed take short flights and again return to the same place."—*W. L. S.*

See also Dobson, Cat. Chiropt. B. M. p. 368 (1878), and im Thurn, 'Among the Indians of Guiana,' p. 115 (1883).

4. *SACCOPTERYX LEPTURA*, Schr.

*a.* Calicoon, close to the junction of the Essequibo and Mazaruni Rivers, 14/11/86.

"This Bat I knocked down about dusk, say 5.30 P.M., with a long stick, just outside the house. Several others were flying about, but I was unable to secure any more."—*W. L. S.*

In this specimen the wing-pouches are unusually large and distended, and from each of them there projects a prominent white frill of skin, which can apparently be exerted or withdrawn at pleasure. From the marked development of these organs, undoubtedly sexual in their nature, it may be inferred that the late autumn is the pairing-time of this species, at least in Guiana.

5. *GLOSSOPHAGA SORICINA*, Pall.

*a, b.* Pen Hope, 13/10/86. On the coast 20 miles east of Georgetown.

"This Bat was found in the house in considerable numbers."—*W. L. S.*

6. *HOLOCHILUS (NECTOMYS) SQUAMIPES*, Brandt.

*a.* Young. Pen Hope, 12/10/86.

"Caught in the cane-fields, and brought to me by a coolie."—*W. L. S.*

7. *HESPEROMYS (RHIPIDOMYS) SCLATERI*, sp. n. (Plate XIX.)

a. ♀. Maccasseema. 11/86.

"I am sorry to say I cannot remember anything about the habits of this Rat; it was caught and brought to me by one of Mr. im Thurn's Indians, and of course did not live in the house."

Fur short, close, very soft and velvety. General colour uniform dark ashy grey, the tips of the hairs below white or pale rufous, line of demarcation not strongly marked; bases of all the hairs slate-coloured. Hairs on both fore and hind feet, including the fingers and toes, all dark brown or black. Ears, when laid forward, reaching just to the centre of the eye; no projection on their anterior border; their backs hairy, black. Tail long, uniformly black, thickly hairy, the hairs about 3 or 4 mm. long throughout, except just at the base, where they are shorter, and at the extreme tip, where they are 10 or 12 mm. long; the rings of scales well-marked, 15 or 16 to the centimetre. Mammæ 6, one axillary and two inguinal pairs. Interdental palate-ridges 6. Foot-pads broad, smooth, rounded; soles naked, quite smooth.

Skull exceedingly similar to that of *H. leucodactylus*, Tsch. (figured P. Z. S. 1884, pl. xliv. fig. 8), but rather longer and narrower, especially in the cranial portion, with the supraorbital edges more strongly developed, and with the incisors rather longer and heavier.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female in spirit:—Head and body 133 mm., tail 172, hind foot 33, forearm and hand 39, ear, above crown, 16, head 43, muzzle to eye 18.5.

*Skull.* Basal length 31.5, greatest breadth 19; nasals, length 12.8; length of molar series 6.4; back of incisors to front of  $m^1$  10.2; palatine foramen, length 8.0; interorbital constriction 6.3.

This species, with which I am glad to connect the name of its discoverer and donor, is very closely allied, in all its essential characters, to *H. (Rhipidomys) leucodactylus*, Tsch.<sup>2</sup>, but that species has its fur very much the nature, colour, and texture of that of the Common Rat; while in *H. sclateri* the fur is wholly different to this, being in fact more like that of certain of the smaller Opossums in its soft and velvety character. In *H. sclateri* the colour is also darker and more uniform than in *H. leucodactylus*, the tail is more uniformly bushy, and the feet, both fore and hind, differ by having black-haired instead of pure white toes.

The present is the first recorded occurrence of any member of the interesting Dormouse-like subgenus *Rhipidomys* in the region north of the Amazons and east of Colombia, and gives therefore a very important addition to the known range of the subgenus. Other species have been recorded from Central America, Ecuador, Peru, Bahia, and Minas Geraes, the nearest ally of *H. sclateri* being, as already noted, the Peruvian *H. leucodactylus*, Tsch.

<sup>2</sup> Faun. Peruana, p. 183, pl. xiii. fig. 2 (1844).

8. *DIDELPHYS MURINA*, Linn. ' .*a.* Pen Hope. 12/10/86.

"Brought to me by a coolie at Plantation Hope, which is on the so-called east coast, *i. e.* about 20 miles along the coast east of Georgetown; it was caught, as I understand, in the cane-fields."—*W. L. S.*



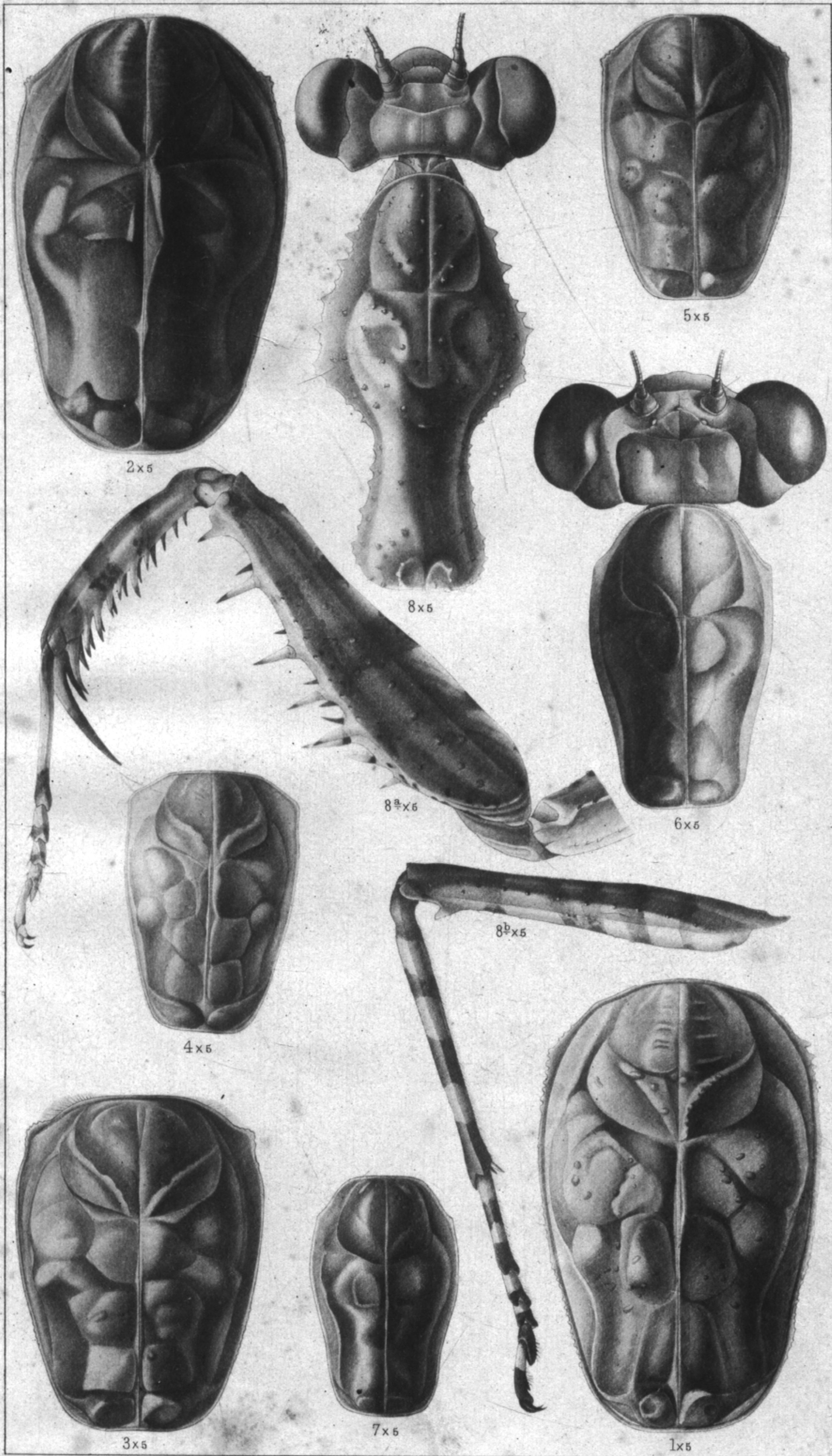


J. Smit lith.

Hauhart imp.

HESPEROMYS (RHIPIDOMYS) SCLATERI.





B.L.D. et. J.W.M. del.